

**Substance Abuse Services Commission
Meeting of April 8, 2015
Cross State Office Building Room 300
Augusta, Maine**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Peter McCorison, Provider, Aroostook County, Chair for SASC
Ann Dorney, MD, Physician in Private Practice
Irene Laney, Clinician in Private Practice
Bill Lowenstein, Board of Dir. of Sexual Assault & Response Services
Thomas Leonard, School Administrative Leader (phone)
Rep. Richard Malably
Robert Rogers, Kennebec Behavioral Health
Diehl Snyder, MD (phone)
Darren Ripley, MAAR

Members Absent/Excused:

Scott Gagnon, Prevention, Healthy Androscoggin
Ann Giggey, Hope House
Rep. Adam Goode

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services:

Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Prevention & Intervention, SAMHS

Guests:

Mary Henry, Women's Addiction Services Council (WASC)
Neill Miner, Director, AdCare Maine
Deborah Doiron, Recorder, AdCare Maine

**Substance Abuse Services Commission Meeting
April 8, 2015
Cross State Office Building, Room 300
Augusta, Maine**

APRIL MINUTES

DRAFT Date:	April 14, 2015	SASC Approved:	
Signed: Recorded by: Deborah Doiron & Neill Miner AdCare Maine			

Meeting Convened: 9:00 A.M.

Adjourned: 12:00 AM

Meeting Convened: By Peter McCorison

Agenda:

- Introductions and Public Comments, Review of the January, February and March Minutes

New Business:

- SAMHS Update – Geoff Miller, Associate Director
- Legislative Update, Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA
- Celebration of Woman in Recovery Event with Women’s Addiction Services Council (WASC) – Mary Henry, presenter: Date of event: May 14th, 2015, 7:00pm – 9:30pm, Gracie Theatre, Bangor, ME

BREAK

- Commission position of Evidence based Medication Assisted Treatment
- Medicine Disposal: Review article sent via e-mail, Inside Maine’s Medicine Cabinet
- Prepare Agenda Items for meeting on May 13, 2015

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00

APRIL 2015 SASC Meeting Summary

Peter McCorison, Chairperson

Introductions, Public Comment, and Meeting Minutes Review

Peter McCorison welcomed and thanked members and guests for coming to the meeting. Introductions were made. Peter asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

Review of Minutes of Previous Meetings - December, January, February & March

Peter stated that there were eight members present, which would allow for a quorum. The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Neill Miner asked about Ann Dorney's edits from the February minutes. Original February copy was not available and will be reviewed at May meeting. Bill Lowenstein asked that on the March minutes Geoff's name and title be moved from Guests to Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services under attendees of the meeting. After making this correction Peter asked if all were in favor of approving the March minutes. The motion was moved by Bill Lowenstein and seconded by Darren Ripley. The March minutes were approved with corrections and given to Deborah Doiron for original filing. Peter also said the Commission would look to review the December, January and February minutes at the May meeting. Peter asked if anyone would like to make changes to the agenda. Rep. Richard Malaby stated that he would need to leave the meeting early, so agenda items were rearranged to accommodate him.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Deborah Doiron will bring December, January & February original documents to May's meeting for review and approval.

NEW BUSINESS - April Agenda

A) SAMHS Update - Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Prevention & Intervention, SAMHS

Topics discussed:

- Legislative bills for review - some bills require a letter or testimony, where SAMHS provides information to the Commissioner's office.
- Contract allocations and development for July 1st; looking at performance measures and forms.
- Staffing: New hires – Nikki Busmanis is the new Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Drug Affected Babies Coordinator. She started in this position last week. SAMHS has also hired Lisa Morang for the position of Data Quality Manager and Special Projects. She will be assisting with grant writing and reports for SAMHS. Both of these positions are contracted positions and are not State line positions. Current Openings at SAMHS: Crisis Services Manager, Intensive Case Manager in the Maine State Prison; Legal Council position within SAMHS for Contracts and Grant Writing, Associate Director for Treatment & Recovery Services; Matt Wells has been hired into the Recovery Manager position; Kristen Fortier continues to serve in an Acting Capacity as the Associate Director of Treatment and Recovery Services.

- Supplemental Budget; some additional funding for this fiscal year, through the 2015 supplemental budget. A key area of funding is support for compliance with the Consent Decree.
- Grants – Always looking for grant opportunities - Partnership for Success 2015, Rural Health Outreach Grant; Dartmouth Research Grant; State Youth Treatment Grant; funds for Advertisements.
- Block Grant – Substance Abuse and Treatment; SAMHS is currently working on the pre-approval process; staff continue to go through a strategic planning process with SAMHSA. Peter McCorison asked about Maine's compliance with the Block Grant maintenance of effort requirement. Geoff said this past year SAMHS received a waiver from SAMHSA due to non-compliance. Compliance for this year is not yet clear.
- Elimination of MaineCare coverage for Methadone treatment & SAMHS position: Geoff stated SAMHS gathers the most up-to-date scientific information on medication assisted treatment and presents this information to the Commissioner's office for their use.
- Update on WITS Program - Geoff said the migration from the Treatment Data System to the new WITS program should be taking place sometime in May. Stacey Chandler has given presentations to MASAP and providers across the State about the program. She has received a lot of feedback and concerns. Peter McCorison commented that when systems change providers find these changes challenging and they can also create increased administrative costs. Peter feels the level of communication between SAMHS and the provider network needs to be more transparent and greater on a regular basis. Geoff explained that SAMHS TDS system just wasn't able to keep up with the office needs. SAMHS' goal was to start the system up as soon as possible, but with the new technology system WITS took a while to get started. Things are moving forward now. SAMHS also would like to begin using this new system at the start of the new fiscal contract year. The new program will have the capacity to communicate with multiple systems, which will be able to provide SAMHS with valuable data, in a more timely and effective manner.
- Marijuana: Peter indicated that the Commission continues to be interested in addressing marijuana more comprehensively. Geoff noted that there is a lot of data available from other states about the impact of increased access. He also noted that Dr. Pinnette had been working on a paper on this topic, and that draft document may be available to examine.
- Letters of Requests and Recommendations sent from the SASC and responses from SAMHS were discussed. Bill Lowenstein made a motion for the members to review previous requests and discuss the degree to which these requests have been addressed. The motion was seconded jointly by Irene Laney and Ann Dorney and approved for presentation at May's meeting. Irene Laney, Ann Dorney and Bill Lowenstein will be working on this project.
- Liaison with other groups on an advisory basis: the question was raised as to whether the Commission should refocus on both substance abuse and mental health issues. Geoff Miller indicated that this is something that the Commissioner's Office might well be open to. Bill Lowenstein wondered if it would be useful to work together with the Mental Health advisory group.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Irene Laney, Ann Dorney and Bill Lowenstein will be reviewing previous requests and recommendations to SAMHS that are still outstanding. These will be presented at the next meeting in May.

B) Legislative Update – Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA

- **Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA was absent for this meeting.**

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

C) Celebration of Women in Recovery Event with Women’s Addiction Services Council (WASC) – Mary Henry, Presenter; Date of event: Thursday, May 14, 2015, 6:00 – 8:30pm, Gracie Theatre, Husson University, Bangor, ME

Mary Henry from WASC began her presentation with some of her own personal history and her role as a volunteer for WASC. She explained that WASC is a grassroots organization, which works to keep us all connected around the State. It is made up of people from the community, providers and advocates. Mary joined the Council nine years ago. Her goal is to increase WASC’s membership and involve others around the State who would be interested in acknowledging the successes of people in recovery. The WASC has traditionally hosted a Silver Tea either at the Blaine House or the State House, where people in recovery are recognized for their efforts and the leadership roles they fulfill. The Silver Tea has been held on an annual basis for the past 30 years, and for the past eight years has chosen and honored a woman for her leadership in support of women in recovery. This year WASC is changing the venue to the Gracie Theater in Bangor, so they can accommodate a larger group of participants. Mary distributed posters and invitations to the Commission members and asked for their assistance in getting the word out about their organization and this upcoming event on Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:30 PM at Husson University in Bangor. Mary also distributed nomination forms for people to nominate a women for The Women in Recovery Leadership Award. She states they will be acknowledging all the service providers who assist with this project. She is also looking for monetary donations for this event. This is an open event and any interested person is welcome.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

D) Commission’s position on Evidence-Based Medication Assisted Treatment

Peter McCorison said that he believed that the members talked some about the Commission’s position on Evidence-Based Medication Assisted Treatment last February or March. He remembered there was a discussion about creating a letter to the Health & Human Services Committee around evidence-based practice. Bill said that he recommended back in February that the SASC advise HHS Committee and the legislature around efficacy and effectiveness of the evidence based practices linked to medication assisted treatment. Geoff asked if the Commission had created any documents on the subject, when the reduction to Suboxone was posed. Bill mentioned the report to the Legislature that had been done within the past six

months. He recommended using some of these findings. He also mentioned a published report on SAMHS website, number 1501. Peter asked Deb to find this document and forward to the SASC members for review. It was noted this report is located under the SASC page on SAMHS's website.

Topics & Concerns discussed regarding the Evidence-Based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and the new legislation being submitted to the legislature, eliminating MaineCare funds for Methadone:

- Creating a letter to send to DHHS Committee and sending a copy to SAMHS about assessing the consequences from the proposed changes in legislation related to MAT, if the legislation passes. It was suggested that DHHS be asked if it has a clinical plan in place if the proposed legislation passes.
- Where will the suboxone providers come from if methadone patients are required to shift to suboxone. A survey sent to FQHCs, reported they were not interested in providing access to suboxone treatment services.
- Non-medical professionals establishing the rules for practicing medicine
- Increased crime, if these changes go through the legislature.
- Suggestion to review previous recommendation report completed for the HHS Committee and use language from this document for inclusion in cover letter to be sent to DHHS Committee and SAMHS again.
- Darren will send Deb a link on a study that members may be interested in reading.
- Transportation Issues and Costs.
- Volunteers for creation of cover letter to go to DHHS Committee & Appropriations – Ann Dorney, Irene Laney, and Bill Lowenstein.

Other Topics discussed:

- Peter McCorison will create a letter making a list of outstanding requests made from the SASC to SAMHS and he will have this ready for the May Meeting.
- Bill Lowenstein also recommended using information from the Report Card from 2010
- Geoff asked the SASC members to identify the low resource, high value list items
- Peter asked about the status of the RFP for Peer Recovery services. Geoff said it is over at the Commissioner's Office and the Department of Contract Management and is currently being rewritten.
- Peter will be doing some outreach to encourage the newly appointed Representatives to attend the next meeting. It was also suggested to possibly change the time of SASC meetings to 8:30 am starting time, instead of 9:00 am.
- Rob Rogers announced the creation of a Prevention Board, Certification Board for Substance Abuse Prevention Professionals. The application was submitted to International Certification Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) and he should hear whether this has been approved by the end of April. Rob stated that after approval, a web link will be available to share the specifics.
- Neill mentioned another network being created is a Gambling Treatment reimbursement group.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Peter McCorison will create a letter and a list of outstanding requests for action, which were previously sent to SAMHS from the SASC members.

E) Medicine Disposal: Review article sent via e-mail; Inside Maine's Medicine Cabinet

Rep. Richard Malaby spoke in regards to a Bill regarding Disposal of Medications. The bill would allow retail drug stores would be required to take back anything they have dispensed. There have been comments made that this bill presents a risk to those retailers. The retailers state that storage of large quantities in their stores would cause them to be more at risk for being robbed. Rep. Malaby stated that it is felt that the drug manufacturers should be more active in these return efforts. Richard Malaby also mentioned the possibility of creating a group over the course of the next year to report back to the Legislature in December. This group would consist of retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, and law enforcement. He would like to see an increase from 2 to 4 take backs a year. He would also like to get manufacturers to fund some of these future take back operations.

Ann Dorney suggested that we could require pharmacists to at least take back the non-scheduled drugs and this would take care of half of the problem. Rep. Malaby said this issue didn't come up in their discussions. Neill Miner asked Rep. Malaby if his group has factored into it that about 100 law enforcement agencies are currently taking back drugs on a daily basis. These law enforcement agencies are using these semi-annual take back days to alleviate storage issues in their evidence lockers. Neill recommended Rep. Malaby consider factoring this into the information, as well. Neill also recommended that Sheriff Liberty would be a good contact person to talk with about these take back efforts.

More items discussed regarding prescription drug take backs:

- Mail in programs – more expensive.
- Over prescribing and prescribing practices by physicians.
- Maine Sheriffs Association's involvement with coordinating police departments and take backs and the disposal of medications.
- Healthy Maine Partnerships have promoted and assisted a lot around medication take back days.
- Peter stated that it is the Commission's wish to keep these take back efforts going forward.
- Rep. Malaby – talked about putting together a plan for these efforts at normal costs.
- Commission has put forth a recommendation to the HHS Committee to increase access to and engage the pharmacies to support effective and appropriate disposal of medications
- Encouraging hospitals to assist with medication take backs.
- Recommendation to have Prevention and PMP representatives be included in the newly created group Rep. Malaby presented to SASC members.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable

N/A

F) Prepare Agenda Items for the next meeting on May 13, 2015:

Approve Minutes: December, January and February
SAMHS Update
Review letter on Medicaid Assisted Recovery
Follow-up on outstanding requests for SAMHS response
Review Medical Disposal
SASC Goals and Action plan review
Review Active SASC Board Membership Listing
SASC and SAMHS – Strengthening the relationship

Next Meeting Location:

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Cross State Office Building, Room 400
9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00